GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:555
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
COOPERATION IN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any country has offered to cooperate in the small and medium enterprises sector during 2007 and 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved;

(c) whether India has also made similar offer to any country;and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) to d): Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, receives as well as offers proposals/requests for mutual cooperation in the area of micro, small and medium enterprises from various developing as well as developed countries.Such offers for mutual cooperation are usually received from/made by the concerned Embassies/ Missions directly, or through Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Industry etc.

The cooperation with various countries,interalia,includes entering into formal Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Joint Action Plan (JAP) etc. with the counterpart Ministry or agency; Institution to Institution level cooperation; exchange of Ministerial/official level delegations; training of officials, entrepreneurs and workers at the Training Institutions of the other country and undertaking consultancy projects; exchange of business delegations,Business to Business meetings and participation in various Exhibitions and Trade Fairs etc.

Ministry of MSME has signed MoUs/JAPs with Tunisia,Romania,Rwanda,Mexico,Uzbekistan,Lesotho,Sri Lanka,Algeria,Sudan and Cote d'Ivoire for the development and cooperation in the MSME sector in the respective countries.The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC),a public sector enterprise of this Ministry has also signed MoUs with MSME support Institutions of 22 countries (Annexure -1).

Ministry of MSME has also been exchanging Ministerial/Official level delegations with several countries for cooperation in the field of Micro,Small and Medium Enterprises Sector.During 2007 and 2008, Ministerial/Official level delegations from USA,Japan,Germany,South Africa,Mexico,Thailand,Ethiopia,Cameroon,Rwanda,Tunisia,Mozambique,Zimbabwe,Namibia,Bahrain and Malawi visited India and held meetings in the Ministry for cooperation in the MSME sector.Similarly,during the same period Ministerial/ Official level delegation from the Ministry visited USA,Mexico,South Africa,Canada,Japan,China,Germany and Uzbekistan for furthering cooperation in the field of MSME sector.

National level Entrepreneurship Development Institutes under the Ministry namely NIESBUD,Noida,NI-MSME,Hyderabad and IIE, Guwahati as well as various Tool Rooms under the O/o DC (MSME) have been imparting entrepreneurship and skill development training to participants from various countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scheme of Ministry of External Affairs.

During 2007 and 2008, NSIC has provided consultancy services and executed projects on turnkey basis in South Africa and established an Information Centre in Tanzania. During the same period,O/o Development Commissioner (MSME), an attached office of this Ministry,has provided consultancy services for a project on Capacity Development Facility in Afganistan;has undertaken assignment for establishment of two Tool Rooms in Zimbabwe;and provided assistance to set up a Tool Room Training Centre in South Africa.

Besides above,to encourage Business to Business cooperation and to expose the Indian MSMEs to international competition and facilitate technology upgradation,modernisation of MSME sector and promotion of exports, assistance is provided by the Ministry to industry associations and other related organisations,for participation in international trade fairs/exhibitions and exchange of business delegations.